

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY  
REMARKS EN ROUTE TO SEVILLE, SPAIN, FOLLOWING MEETINGS WITH MINISTER OF  
DEFENSE VARGAS AND PRIME MINISTER FELIPE GONZALEZ  
SEPTEMBER 28, 1994

SECRETARY PERRY: . . .meeting with Minister of Defense Vargas, whom I met at NATO meetings before, but this is the first really in-depth, one-on-one discussion I've had with him. Part of my objectives in coming to these (inaudible) is getting to know my counterpart ministers on a closer basis. The issues we discussed were the issues we talked about at the press conference. The Southern flank issue is a very big issue for Italy, France, Spain, Greece, in particular. We're going to make a major effort at this NATO meeting to bring that front and center.

Q. Is it a matter of physically relocating forces, or simply redrawing priorities, what are the things that are envisioned when you talk about the Southern flank?

SECRETARY PERRY: We're going to be opening up the discussion of what to do to make a reality of our interest in that area. It will certainly involve holding more exercises in that area. It may be involved bringing countries like Egypt and Morocco into some of our joint exercises; confidence building measures we can take in those countries -- the whole set of things and the point of these discussions, the meeting tomorrow, will be to try to articulate, lay out, (inaudible) specific actions we can take.

Q. He also made the point about drawing closer to those countries who perhaps -- maybe he didn't say directly economic aid, trade, other areas -- to shore up these governments so they're in power more...

SECRETARY PERRY: That's true, but it's not a NATO function as such. NATO benefits from doing that because it has real security benefits, but it's not something that NATO will be setting up programs to carry out.

Q. Did you get any reaction from your counterpart on this concept of more vigorous use of NATO air power in Bosnia?

SECRETARY PERRY: We talked a little bit about that and we'll be talking in much more detail about that at the ministers' meeting, and what I hope will come out of this ministers' meeting here is a consensus among the defense ministers about how to proceed, in general in Bosnia, and in particular, the role of NATO's air power. All of them will agree that NATO air power has a role to play, and some of us, like myself, have been pushing for much more robust use of NATO air power. I hope we can agree on a set of conditions under which that more robust use can take place.

SECRETARY PERRY: Mannfred's death was a great loss. He was such a wonderful person, such a powerful force in NATO. NATO will go ahead though, partly by individual ministers taking a greater, more active role. But of course, there will be a new secretary general, I hope in a matter of weeks, not months. He'll take his role and he may become another Mannfred Woerner. We hope so.

Q. In terms of using air power, are you talking about actively driving these heavy weapons out of the exclusion zones -- not just waiting for violations, not just waiting for them to throw a grenade at a French troop or something -- you're talking about actively clearing out these exclusion zones?

SECRETARY PERRY: I think what there will probably be a consensus on, probably a clear consensus, is using NATO air power in response to particular provocations and violations. The key is getting at the definition of what those are. For example, the strangulation of Sarajevo would be such a one, but there may be some refinement needed in what that's going to be. And then, having agreed to that, in my view we'd need a robust response to it, not a small response. That's what I want. I'm not too much worried about the circumstances in which we reply, as the way that we reply. I want to go in more vigorous.

Q. Explain what you mean by robust response. Are you talking about perhaps wider strikes, right in that area?

SECRETARY PERRY: When we go in, I want to go with compelling force. Force which -- not necessarily just proportionate to the act (inaudible). But enough to make it clearer that there's a heavy price to pay for violating these rules that NATO has established.

Q. And to end the circumstances where the search for a single tank yields no tank and that sort of problem that's come up a couple of times on these NATO responses?

SECRETARY PERRY: Those are two examples of cases where I think the response was inappropriately -- was not robust, was not strong enough.

Thank you for your time.

END

WASHINGTON TIMES

Sept. 29, 1994

Pg. 13

# Perry wants to teach Bosnian Serbs a lesson

## Says NATO raids should do trick

By Charles Aldinger  
REUTERS NEWS AGENCY

SEVILLE, Spain — Defense Secretary William Perry said yesterday he will press NATO to punish Bosnian Serb military forces with heavy air raids for future violations of alliance orders in Bosnia-Herzegovina's bloody civil war.

Mr. Perry, in Spain for a two-day meeting of NATO defense minis-

ters, said the Serbs must not be allowed to strangle the besieged capital, Sarajevo, often without water and power. He expressed strong disappointment over past NATO bombing of single Serbian tanks in "proportionate" retaliation for shooting at U.N. peace-keeping troops.

"When we go in, I want to go in with compelling force. Force not necessarily just proportionate to the act at stake, but enough to make it clear that there is a heavy price to pay for violating these rules that NATO has established," Mr. Perry told reporters traveling with him.

He said previous attempts to strafe and bomb one tank were "not robust... not strong enough" to teach the Serbs a lesson.

"What I hope will come out of this meeting here is a consensus among the defense ministers about how to proceed in general in Bosnia and in particular (on) the role of NATO air power," Mr. Perry said.

He warned Serbs, who have refused to accept a peace agreement for the former Yugoslavia, against taking advantage of President Clinton's decision not to press for the lifting of an international arms embargo against Bosnia until spring, although the Serbs have a strong military advantage over Bosnian government forces.

"All of them (ministers) will agree that NATO air power has a role to play. Some of us, like myself, have been pushing for much more robust use of NATO air

power, and I hope we can agree on a set of conditions under which that more robust use will take place," Mr. Perry said.

He stopped briefly in Madrid earlier yesterday and met with Spanish Defense Minister Julian Garcia Vargas and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

Mr. Perry and Mr. Garcia Vargas discussed the deepening "Mediterranean security" concerns of France and countries along NATO's southern flank regarding the rise of Muslim fundamentalism in Algeria and other North African countries.

U.S. officials said France, Spain, Italy, Turkey, Greece and Portugal worried about unrest to the south, especially the threat that thousands of moderate Arab refugees could come flooding into France and southern Europe in the event that moderate governments in the region fell to extremists.